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# EXCHANGE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCE OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



# The Joy of Brother

**HOOD**



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- 2 **EDITOR'S NOTE** - BR. ANMOL BARA, OFM
- 3 **MY EXPERIENCE OF ORGANIZING FRAYME 2025**  
- BR. PRASHANTH FERNANDES, OFM
- 4 **REALIZE AND ENJOY, NOT SEARCH AND FIND: REFLECTION**  
- BR. ANDREW EDLIN, OFM
- 5 **ONAM CELEBRATION AT ASSISIVANAM**  
- BR. AKHIL P. J., OFM
- 6 **A SUDDEN DAY OUT BRINGS HAPPINESS**  
- BR. ABHISHEK BARWA, POSTULANT
- 6 **LAUDATO SI O MI' SIGNORE**  
- BR. ANTHONY AHASH, OFM
- 7 **FR. TOM'S SACERDOTAL GOLDER JUBILEE**  
- BR. JIDBOKLANG WANNIANG, NOVICE
- 8 **FOCUS LEADER'S MEET - 2025** - BR. DOMINIC C. J.
- 9 **NAYAKHANI CELEBRATION AT NANESERA**  
- BR. PYSUK MARWEIN, OFM
- 10 **YOUTH FEST - 2025** - BR. JUEL SANGMA, OFM
- 11 **FVGS - SEPTEMBER 2025** - BR. ISAAC REYES, OFS
- 12 **DIWALI: THE CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS**  
- PETER DANG, POSTULANT
- 13 **EXPERIENCE OF PRABHODANA COMMUNITY: MYSORE**  
- BR. PRADEEP ANTHONY, OFM
- 14 **ACROSS THE GLOBE** - BRS. ROHIT NOEL & ANTHONY PHILIP
- 14 **IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE**  
- BR. JISUAL HAPAN, POSTULANT
- 15 **THEOLOGY BROTHER'S PICNIC TO BHATKAL**  
- BR. MALLIKANTI AJAY, OFM
- 16 **PARTICIPATING IN THE EPISCOPAL INSTALLATION OF BISHOP FRANCIS SERRAO** - BR. ANTHONY ARCHER, OFM
- 17 **CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH RAMNAGAR**  
- BR. ELIYAS REDDY, OFM
- 18 **ST. MONICA'S FEAST** - BR. DHILIP KUMAR, OFM
- 18 **THE FEAST OF ST. LOUIS THE KING**  
- BR. ARJIT LAKRA, NOVICE
- 19 **FRANCISCAN JOY ALIVE: FEAST OF ST FRANCIS AND FRAYME 2025**  
- BR. ALLWIN KARRA, OFM
- 20 **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, RAMNAGAR: A TESTAMENT OF FRANCISCAN SPIRIT**- BR. ELIYAS REDDY, OFM
- 21 **KARAM FESTIVAL** - BR. DHILIP KUMAR, OFM
- 22 **SINGING TO ETERNAL GLORY: TRANSITUS CELEBRATION AT NASIK**  
- BR. ANTONI WANNIANG, OFM
- 23 **800 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF CANTICLE: A DAY OF HOPE AND FRANCISCAN UNITY** - BR. PRATAP XESS, OFM
- 24 **A NOTE OF GRATITUDE** - BR. LEOMAX, OFM
- 25 **POETRY OF PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE** - BR. SUJITH, OFM
- 26 **HATRICK OF FATHER FRANCIS SPARKS THE FRIAR'S PASTORAL MINISTRY** - BR. AROK SUNDAR, OFM
- 28 **FVGS - OCTOBER 2025** - BR. ISSAC REYES, OFS
- 29 **ARMS MEETING** - BR. JOHNSON M. V., OFM
- 30 **PAGE FROM HISTORY** - BR. BABU JOSE, OFM

# Editorial



## From the Canticle to the Community

*Br. Anmol Bara, OFM*

The 800<sup>th</sup> centenary of the Canticle of the Brother Sun marks a significant event in our lives as Franciscans. It is the spirit of brotherhood that extends beyond the filial relationships. Perhaps today St. Francis is remembered so fondly because of his love for the creation rather than only for his intimate relationship with the divine. We often become fascinated with Francis' bond with the creatures, seeing them as the immediate point of reference to his personality. Yet, there is something deeper than mere charm of birds and animals surrounding his figure.

Francis' way of seeing the creation as brothers and sisters was not disconnected from his intimate love for the creator; rather it flowed from this divine source. He was so consumed by love for God and others that even material things became alive for him.

Today, the Canticle of the Brother Sun reminds us of our primary responsibility to love our brothers in the fraternity. It may seem easy to love creation as brothers and sisters, but loving the brother within the community is far more challenging. Too often, we substitute our love for the other with affection for creatures and the material reality. Francis reminds that the brothers are the first gift of God to the fraternity, as he testifies: "the Lord gave me brothers." Therefore, the community is the first expression of our love for God.

The fraternity is like a garden filled with various plants, each bearing different potentials and fruits. One large fruitful tree does not make the garden whole; it is completed by many other plants that produce fruits, herbs and flowers. Therefore, the great fruitful tree must also create space for the other trees to grow and produce good fruits.

Francis' personality as a brother is profoundly expressed in terms of being "born in the spirit." This idea transcends mere earthly ties and it binds us through something more spiritual than material. According to Eloi Leclercq, OFM, the key to Francis' spirituality lies in his ability to see the created world as a member of his own family. Yet, this vision was not an end in itself but it was a revelation of his inner self – an intimacy with God and the other. The love for creation is essential, but it must flow from the love of the Creator and for one another.

We have often sung to the tune of the brother sun and sister moon, but now it is time to tune ourselves inward, to prune away what hinders love and to create a space in our hearts so that our fraternal bonds may grow and mature into a full brotherhood in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



# MY EXPERIENCE OF ORGANISING FRAYME 2025



*Br. Prashanth Fernandes, OFM*

FRAYME 2025 will always remain a milestone moment in the life of St. Anthony's Friary Church. From 3rd to 5th October, our parish had the joy and privilege of hosting nearly 500 young people from various Franciscan parishes across India. It was truly a celebration of faith, fraternity, and the Franciscan spirit of joy.

When we first began our preparations, things were not very clear – just a few ideas, a small team, and a big dream. But as the days passed, through prayer, planning, and the dedicated efforts of youth and the organising committee, those ideas began to take shape. What inspired me most throughout this journey was the deep sense of collaboration and trust among everyone involved – the youth, Finance committee of the parish, Friars and parishioners, volunteers, and our ever-enthusiastic organising committee. Everyone contributed selflessly, each in their own unique way, like different threads woven into one beautiful tapestry.

The three days of FRAYME were filled with energy and grace. The youth radiated enthusiasm and joy as they came together to pray, reflect, sing, dance, and share their experiences of being young Franciscans in today's world. The Eucharistic celebrations, the talks, workshops, the cultural evening, and above all, the spirit of fellowship gave life to the theme of the meet. Seeing our parish campus come alive with music, laughter, and youthful energy was deeply moving. It was, in many ways, a reminder that the Franciscan charism continues to inspire and transform hearts even today.

As parish priest, I was humbled to witness how God worked through every person and every moment – in the coordination, the hard work, the challenges, and the joy of success. The dedication of the organizing committee, the generosity of our parishioners, and the vibrant presence of the youth made this gathering a true celebration of faith and community. I am particularly grateful to the youth, various parish groups, and the many hands that worked silently behind the scenes.

The feedback we received from the participants and visiting friars was heartwarming. Many expressed how welcomed and cared for they felt at St. Anthony's Friary Church. Their appreciation reminded me that when we open our doors and hearts with simplicity and generosity, God multiplies our efforts beyond what we imagine.

As I look back, I can only echo the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Let us begin again, for up to now we have done little." FRAYME 2025 was not just an event – it was a movement of grace. It strengthened our faith, renewed our hope, and reminded us that in journeying together, we encounter Christ most beautifully.

May this spirit continue to inspire us as we keep the flame of Franciscan youth alive, ever faithful and joyful in the service of the Lord.



# REALIZE **AND** ENJOY, NOT SEARCH AND FIND: A REFLECTION

*Br. Andrew Edlin, OFM*

For centuries, people have searched and studied to find the power beyond human limitation. Not one person, nor one group, found the truth, but many hearts, minds, and communities did. Their paths differed, yet all discovered this: there is a power beyond us. However, the different methods of seeking it have often led to division.

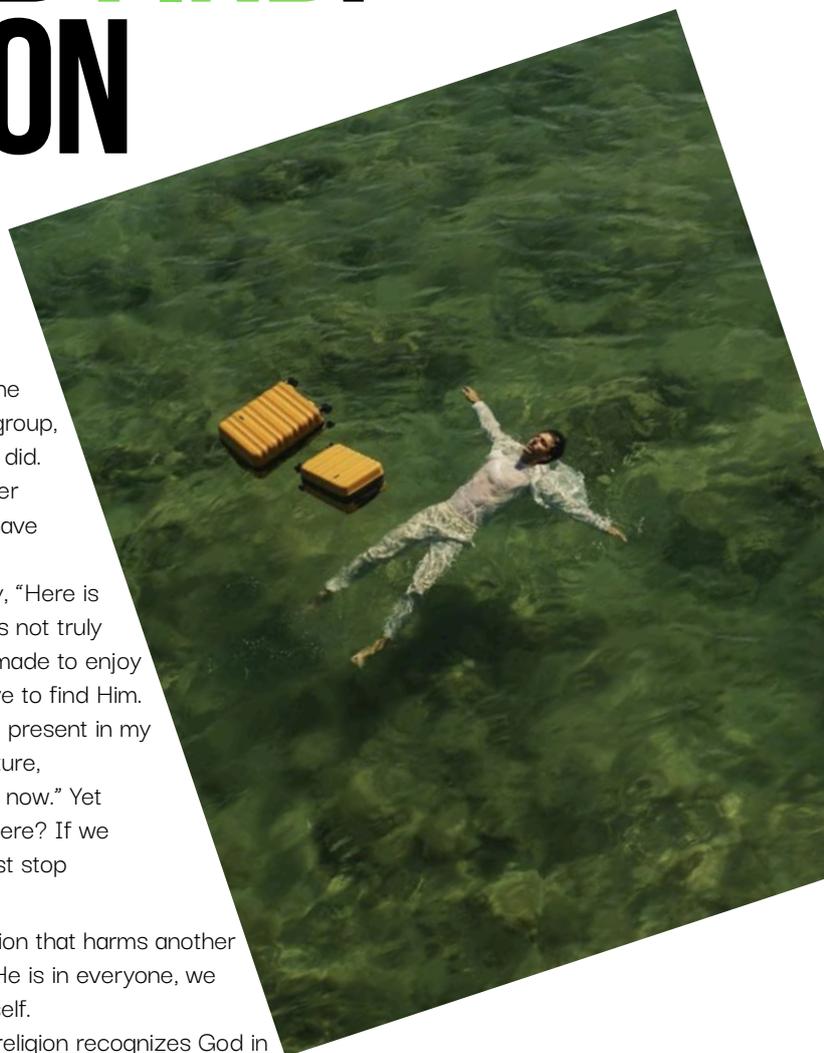
If we keep searching for God, will we ever stop? If we say, "Here is God," then He becomes confined to that space. So, God is not truly found by seeking but by realizing and enjoying. We were made to enjoy rather than to search. Take it simply: enjoy God, don't strive to find Him. To enjoy God is to realize that He is within me, around me, present in my society, culture, friends, enemies, leaders, animals, and nature, everywhere. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is here and now." Yet many still pray, "God, come down." But is He not already here? If we believe God is everywhere, even in darkness, then we must stop searching and start welcoming His presence.

Seeing God in every person changes everything. Any religion that harms another denies God's presence in that person. If we truly believe He is in everyone, we cannot harm them; for to hurt another is to hurt God Himself.

Wars today often carry religion as their weapon. But true religion recognizes God in the other, even in the so-called enemy. When we realize this, enemies disappear, and all become friends. This is why Jesus says, "Love your enemy", because he is not your enemy but God Himself.

The negative we see in others is only an illusion, a deception like the serpent in Eden. The devil's offer was a shadow; the only truth is God. Hold to this truth: God is present everywhere. We don't need to search; we need to only realize and enjoy. This alone can end hatred, war, and division.

Realize and enjoy, not search and find, for you will only keep searching.



# ONAM CELEBRATION AT ASSISIVANAM

*Br. Akhil P. J., OFM*

Onam is not just a festival—it's a celebration of unity in the rhythm of the harvest. Onam is one of the most important and vibrant festivals celebrated in the Indian state of Kerala. Marked as a harvest celebration and as a tribute to King Mahabali, Onam reflects Kerala's cultural richness, unity, and enduring traditions. Onam is not just a festival but a celebration of Kerala's values, agricultural abundance, and legendary history.

We had a joyful celebration of Onam at Assisivanam, filled with gratitude, fun, and togetherness. The day began with the brothers decorating beautiful flower carpets (Pookalams) in the chapel and the refectory. Everyone worked with great joy and energy, thanking God for all the blessings, especially the good harvest and the hard work of our farmers. At 6:30 a.m., we had the Thanksgiving Holy Mass celebrated by Friar Johnson M.V., the Guardian of our community. It was a time to thank God for His love and blessings throughout the year.

Around 9:00 a.m., we had the traditional Onam games. All the brothers took part with great excitement and enjoyed the time together. The games brought laughter and a strong sense of unity. At 12:30 p.m., we gathered in the refectory to welcome King Mahabali. He gave his blessings and handed out prizes to the winners of the games. We then had the Onam Sadya, a traditional meal served on banana leaves. The food was enjoyed by all, and the meal ended with sweet Payasam. At 3.00 p.m., the brothers went for an outing. In the evening, around 7:30, we came together again to thank the Lord for all the blessings of the day and the year. The day ended with a joyful time of community recreation.



**“Onam is not just a festival—it's a celebration of unity in the rhythm of the harvest.”**

# A SUDDEN DAY OUT BRINGS HAPPINESS

Br. Abhishek Barwa, Postulant

On 7<sup>th</sup> of October, the community of Punitha Anthoniar Illam planned for a day out/. It was really a relaxing day for us after the hard work, done during the preparation for the Transitus and the feast of St. Francis. We were indeed relaxed both mentally and physically. All the brothers were so eager and enthusiastic to go for the outing. This I witnessed when we were waiting for the vehicle. There was a lot of funny and enjoyable talk on the way to the outing spot; some of us started singing while others started to share their past.

The spot was an hour away from the friary. When we reached the spot, one of our parishioners welcomed us to their home for refreshment. We shared snacks which we had carried and around 12 o'clock, we jumped inside the canal nearby for a bath, which was the main purpose of going there. We played volleyball in the water and we took a few pics for our remembrance.



After swimming in the flowing water in the canal, we headed towards the parishioner's house to have our lunch which we had brought from the friary. After lunch we engaged ourselves in playing cards. After a short siesta we returned to the friary with joy and happiness. Even though it was a very short time, we had immense joy and happiness. We are grateful for the wonderful moment given by God, the Almighty, and the formators.



## LAUDATO SI' O MI' SIGNORE

Br. Anthony Ahash, OFM

St. Francis of Assisi praised God in everything around him. To him, all creation seemed to sing out, "He who made us is infinitely good." He lovingly called animals, plants and all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters," and urged them to join him in praising God. As he walked through the streets and fields, he invited everyone to sing together in joy. Once, when he came across an almond tree, he said, "Brother Almond, speak to me of God." St. Francis was a humble man who amazed and inspired the Church by following Jesus' example fully and without limits. His life remains a living invitation to all of us to love creation, serve humbly, and live with deep gratitude to God.



To honour our Seraphic Father, St. Francis, we celebrated his feast with great solemnity. This year marks 800 years since the Canticle of Creatures was written, so we held a nine-day novena based on the different themes from the Canticle. To prepare spiritually for the feast, Fr. Shaji OFM led a half-day recollection on the Canticle, reflecting on its timeless message for today's world.

The brothers enthusiastically took part in organising various activities for the feast. Each day, the faithful who joined us for the Eucharistic celebrations received inspiring messages connected to the novena themes, helping them deepen their appreciation of God's creation and St. Francis' spirituality.

On the evening of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the faithful and the religious from nearby communities gathered at 5:30 p.m. for the Transitus service. We began the service outside the chapel, then had a procession with lighted candles while singing the Divine Praises. The whole Transitus was in the form of enactment, beautifully recalling the passing of our Seraphic Father into eternal life. The service concluded with snacks and refreshments, shared in fraternity and joy.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we gathered together to celebrate the Solemn Feast of St. Francis. The day started with Morning Prayer, followed by a delicious breakfast. The brothers then prepared the refectory for lunch and completed other important tasks. At 11:00 a.m., Fr. Joseph Stephen OFM presided over the festive Eucharist, concelebrated by the friar priests and the priests from the neighbouring communities. During the Mass, the friars renewed their vows, a touching reminder of their commitment to the Franciscan way of life. After Mass, we shared a joyful and hearty meal together. The day concluded with a special evening prayer, supper, and recreation. We experienced the feast as a time of grace, brotherhood, and blessing; a celebration that echoed the spirit of St. Francis, who saw God's beauty in every creature and praised Him in all things.



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# FR. TOM 'S SACERDOTAL GOLDEN JUBILEE

*Br. Jidboklang Wanniang, Novice*



Fr. Tom was ordained on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1975. Since then, he has travelled around the world and rendered various pastoral services. A lot has surely changed in him, from his appearance to his understanding of life, but through all the years, he has remained a faithful priest, one who consecrates the body and blood of Christ. What a privilege! Uncountable would be those who received baptism, reconciliation, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of matrimony from his hands. Today he stands among us, as one of incalculable value, owing the years of experience in various fields of ministry. When I heard friars speak of him, mostly they mentioned that he has been their rector, and I just wonder how much he has contributed, in a way, they are all his products!

Though we were supposed to celebrate the auspicious ceremony on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025, we anticipated the celebration on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The day began like a feast, with a Solemn Eucharistic celebration;

brothers had skillfully decked the altar with exquisite flowers, and the mass hymns, well chosen for the occasion, were sung jubilantly, accompanied by musical instruments. Right after the mass, we gathered in the novitiate garden for the ceremonial cake cutting. The guardian shared with us, his lived experience with Fr. Tom, he himself having been a student of Fr. Tom once. It was happy coincidence that one of Fr. Tom's batch-mates was present for the celebration, namely, Br. Charles Mathew. Needless to say, the day's meals were nothing short of a feast and added greatly to the celebratory atmosphere along with short games in the morning and cultural recreational gathering in the evening.

A good day to celebrate and express our appreciation and gratitude to our brother.





*Br. Dominic C. J., OFM*

# FOCUS LEADER'S MEET – 2025

Following a break due to the pandemic, the FOCUS team gathered its leaders for a meeting on July 12th and 13th, 2025, at Bangalore's Claret Nivas (Retreat & Renewal Centre). The assembly served to re-establish the leaders' collective commitment to FOCUS's core mission and evangelistic vision.

·“Harvesters of Peace” & Navigators of Jesus” from Cochin, Kerala.

·“Divine Spark” from Bangalore, Karnataka.

·“Divine Mercy” Fellowship from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

·“Good News Fellowship” from Palamaner, Andhra Pradesh.

·“Divine Flame” Fellowship from Hyderabad, Telangana.

The theme selected for this meeting is “Be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24). This theme aims to inspire the Leaders and the teams to construct their lives upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

The program commenced with Praise and Worship dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ, led by the Divine Spark Youth Team, followed by the introduction of the leaders from each FOCUS team. Our Franciscan Minister Provincial of the OFM, Rev. Fr. Xavier Durairaj, conveyed a heartfelt message of encouragement regarding the Mission and Evangelization efforts. This message was shared, and all leaders received it with enthusiasm. Subsequently, each leader presented the activities their team had engaged in over the past months of this year. These introductions and presentations provided all participants with valuable insights into the other teams within the FOCUS family.

Rev. Fr. Dominic then delivered a talk on the “New Way to the Kingdom of God,” which emphasized the necessity for each individual to prepare their life by considering the following four dimensions:

1. Spiritual Life
2. Community Life
3. Intellectual Life
4. Missionary Life

This was effectively illustrated using the diagram below, accompanied by pertinent examples. The participants were able to categorize their life activities into one or more Quadrants of this model.

The Divine Spark Youth attending the meeting were tasked with creating a skit that depicted the return of the lost flock from worldly distractions to the path leading to the Kingdom of God. In the evening, the leaders facilitated a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opening themselves to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was followed by Holy Mass, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Dominic, OFM, which allowed the congregation to commune with Christ.

The second day began with a Sunrise Meditation amidst the serene natural surroundings of Claret Nivas. Members harmonized with nature, contemplating God's creation alongside His Word. A brief workshop followed to discuss each team's plans for the upcoming months, providing clarity for the short term. Rev. Fr. Prasanna then joined the FOCUS Leaders meeting, presiding over the session and offering invaluable guidance for the team's path forward.



The leaders agreed to establish a FOCUS Foundational Formation Program (FFF-Program) at the organizational level. This initiative will involve a dedicated task force developing formation materials on 40 identified topics. These resources will enable all FOCUS members to enhance their mission and evangelization efforts. The program is designed to ensure a comprehensive and unified understanding among lay leaders across all regional teams.

A walkthrough of two sample topics, “What do you seek?” and “God has a plan,” was presented to the leaders to ensure a clear understanding of the program's content. The creation of content for all 40 topics in the FFF Program is scheduled for the upcoming months, with the intention of publishing it as a reference book before the next Leaders Meeting.

The FOCUS Leaders Meeting drew to a close with a Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Prasanna and Rev. Fr. Dominic, followed by a concluding message, a vote of thanks, and a group photo session. The leaders, filled with the joy of the Spirit, expressed their eagerness to share this same enthusiasm with their teams.

# NayaKhani

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH NANESERA

*Br. Pynsuk Marweiñ, OFM*

Naya Khani is an important festival celebrated across Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and several parts of North India. The term "Naya" means "New," and "Khani" means "Food," signifying a celebration of the new harvest. This festival serves as a thanksgiving to God for the new grains as a time of communal joy and unity. During Naya Khani, people offer prayers to the Creator, perform traditional dances with rhythmic movements and vibrant beats, and share delicious dishes prepared from the freshly harvested crops. The festival beautifully underscores the deep bond between the community and the land, highlighting the importance of agriculture and the natural cycles of life. It is, above all, a celebration of harvest, community spirit, and the joy of togetherness.

At our parish, St. Francis Church Nanesera, the celebration of Naya Khani began with a Holy Eucharist at 7:00 AM, followed by a solemn procession to the Altar. The Mass was presided over by our Parish Priest, Fr. Augustine Tirkey. The celebration was uplifted by the melodious chanting of the congregation. The choir sang like angels, accompanied by musical instruments led by Br. Sushil Beck on the keyboard along with the drum (Mandar) played by musicians.

After the Mass, a lively Sadri dance competition took place, attracting a large crowd dressed in bright traditional attire. Young and old, men and women alike, joined with infectious energy and joy. The first prize was shared by two villages, Mangarkuda toli and Karam Toli, while Kolbahar secured second place and Dumbardih came third.

The celebration was a successful one with the presence of MLA, Mr. Bhushan Bara and his wife Josima Xaxa who is also incharge of JILA Parishad. The festivities continued with the much-anticipated hockey final at the village ground. Khijurdih triumphed and received a goat as their prize. With this exciting finale, the day's celebrations came to a joyful close.



# YOUTH FEST 2025

## “BE MY WITNESSES” – A CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND UNITY AT SACRED HEART THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, SHILLONG

*Br. Juel Sangma, OFM*

On 12 October 2025, Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong, echoed with the joy and vitality of the city’s young people as it hosted Youth Fest 2025 under the theme “Be My Witnesses” (cf. Acts 1:8; see also John 17). Organized by the Sacred Heart community which brings together members from several congregations and dioceses the event welcomed over 2,000 young people from the Shillong region, representing the region’s rich tribal diversity: Khasi, Garo, Bodo, Naga, Nepali, Adivasi, Mizo, and others.

The day opened with registration at 7:30 a.m., followed by a solemn Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. The Eucharist set a prayerful and hopeful tone, reminding everyone of Christ’s call to witness to His love in daily life. After Mass, the Rector of the Sacred Heart Theological Community offered a warm welcome to all participants, encouraging them to live out the festival theme in their families, schools, and neighbourhoods.

A lively cultural programme showcased the vibrant traditions of Shillong’s youth. Through dances and songs, participants celebrated their distinct heritages while demonstrating how diversity can be a source of unity. The colourful costumes, energetic performances, and sincere camaraderie illustrated the beauty of a Church that embraces many tongues and cultures.



At 12:00 noon a focused youth session of 45 minutes provided time for reflection and formation around the theme “Be My Witnesses.” Speakers and facilitators invited the young people to consider practical ways to witness to Christ in everyday actions through service, integrity, compassion, and bold faith echoing the prayer of Jesus for His disciples in John 17 and the mission entrusted in Acts 1:8.



The programme was honoured by the presence of Mr. A. L. Hek, MLA, who joined as Chief Guest. In his brief address he urged the youth to demonstrate Christian witness through daily living by loving their neighbours, standing for justice, and contributing positively to society. His words resonated with many and complemented the festival’s call to concrete, Gospel-shaped living.

A sumptuous shared lunch fostered fraternity and a sense of family among all present. The afternoon continued with more cultural presentations and fellowship, culminating in a spirited “jumping session” at 7:00 p.m., where music, dance, and collective praise closed the day on a high note.

Youth Fest 2025 at Sacred Heart Theological College was a powerful reminder that the youth of Shillong though many in language and custom stand united in one mission: to be joyful, courageous witnesses of Christ. The day strengthened bonds, inspired commitment, and sent the young people home renewed and ready to live the Gospel in their communities.



# Report on the Franciscan Vision Global Summit (FVGS) – September 2025

*Br. Isaac Reyes, OFS*

The Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Sr. Jessy Thomas, FCC, opened the program with the Franciscan greeting: “May the Lord give you peace, dear Brothers and Sisters!” She informed the participants that the talk would be delivered in English and simultaneously translated into six other languages—Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Hindi, and Tamil—by the respective translators.

Sr. Jessy announced that this was the 33rd online session of the Franciscan Vision Global Summit (FVGS) since its commencement in January 2023, and the 9th monthly session of FVGS 2025. The session began with an invocation to the Holy Spirit, led by the Pre-novices, Professed Sisters, and Formators of the Ursuline Franciscan Sisters (UFS) in Mangalore, India.

Sr. Jessy then introduced the moderator, Sr. Smitha Pallippuram, CFMSS, who has served as a formator in various stages of formation for the Clarist Franciscan Missionaries of the Most Blessed Sacrament (CFMSS) and is currently the Vice-Provincial of St. Clare’s Province in Dehradun, in the state of Uttarakhand, India. Sr. Smitha, in turn, introduced the speaker, Prof. Dr. Br. Arokiam John, OFM, who delivered a profound talk on the theme: “The Inspiration of the Canticle of the Creatures to be Pilgrims of Franciscan-Marian Hope: From Mary as ‘Advocate and Queen of the Franciscan Order’ to Mary as ‘Mother and Queen of All Creation.’” Highlights of the Talk by Br. Arokiam John, OFM.



The Canticle of the Creatures (1225-1226), written by St. Francis of Assisi, is a hymn of reconciliation, hope, and praise to God through all creation. Composed near the end of Francis’s life—amid illness, pain, and near blindness—it reflects his profound vision of unity between God, humanity, and the natural world. The Canticle joins the beginning and the end of creation in one act of praise, embodying both the memory of the original harmony and the hope for the final transfiguration of all things in God.

Though Christ and Mary are not explicitly mentioned in the Canticle, Franciscan tradition perceives their silent presence. The Canticle is inherently Christological, revealing the human person as the image of the Redeemer, and implicitly Marian, since Mary perfectly embodies humanity’s response to God in her fiat. Pope Francis refers to her as the “Mother and Queen of all creation” (Laudato Si’ §241), echoing St. Francis’s own deep reverence for her maternal mediation.

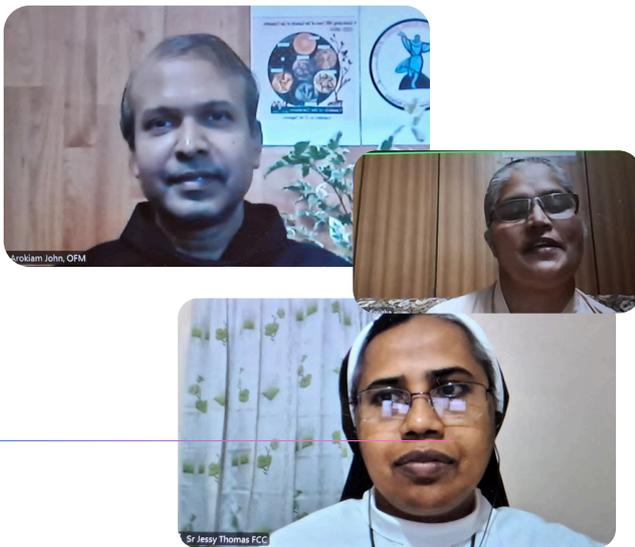
St. Francis’s devotion to Mary—nurtured through his prayer at the Portiuncula (St. Mary of the Angels)—inspired early Franciscan devotion to her as the protector of the Order. His writings and prayers, such as the Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, express deep humility and profound affection, addressing her as the “holy Lady” and “Queen.” Although Francis himself never used the title “Advocate and Queen of the Franciscan Order,” his devotion clearly reflected such sentiments.

Thomas of Celano, Francis’s first biographer, further developed this theme by describing Mary as *Ordinis Advocata*—the Advocate and Protectress of the Order—and *Pauperum Advocata*—the Advocate of the Poor. Drawn from medieval juridical and feudal imagery, this title portrays Mary as a merciful intercessor who shelters the humble under her wings and leads them to Christ. Her advocacy reflects and complements the role of the Holy Spirit, the true Advocate who guides the Church and the Franciscan family.

Thomas also used the title *Regina* (Queen) for Mary, emphasizing her maternal tenderness and royal mercy. Through the beloved prayer *Salve Regina*, Franciscan spirituality came to see Mary not only as the Queen of Heaven but also as the compassionate Mother of Mercy, reigning through love and service.

From this Franciscan–Marian foundation arises a spirituality of hope—a hope that unites praise, humility, and service. As “Advocate and Queen of the Franciscan Order,” Mary embodies maternal care for the poor and humble; as “Mother and Queen of all creation,” she reveals the universal dimension of Franciscan hope—that all creatures, reconciled and redeemed in Christ, are destined to share in God’s peace.

In the Cantic of the Creatures, the journey of praise—through nature, suffering, forgiveness, and death—becomes a pilgrimage of hope. It invites us, as pilgrims of Franciscan–Marian hope, to join Francis and Mary in praising, blessing, and serving the Creator with humility and joy, until all creation sings in harmony: “Laudato Si’, Mi’ Signore.”



### Question and Answer Session

Sr. Smitha Pallippuram led an engaging Question and Answer session, giving Br. Arokiam John the opportunity to expand further on the origins of Franciscan–Marian hope. He discussed the popular Marian devotions during the time of St. Francis, theological developments before and after the Second Vatican Council’s Mariology, and the relevance of St. Francis’s language about Mary for the contemporary world.

### Conclusion

At the close of the session, Sr. Jessy Thomas, as MC, thanked both Sr. Smitha Pallippuram and Br. Arokiam John, OFM for their valuable contributions and, on behalf of the OFM-India and FVGS Team, invited the participants to the next online FVGS event, scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 17:30-18:45 (Indian time) or 13:00-14:15 (Italian time).

Finally, Sr. Jessy introduced the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM) Sisters from Asia, Africa, and Europe, who serve at the FMM Generalate in Rome. Their hymn on the Cantic of the Creatures beautifully concluded the day’s session.

As the founder and coordinator of FVGS—and also the day’s speaker—Br. Arokiam John, OFM, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Sr. Jessy Thomas and Sr. Smitha Pallippuram for their excellent service as MC and moderator, respectively. He also thanked the translators and participants, concluding with the familiar Franciscan blessing:

“Thank you all, and may the Lord give you peace!”

## I LI: THE CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

*Br. Peter Dang, Postulant*

We celebrated Diwali on 20<sup>th</sup> October, reflecting on the theme light. The celebration began with an introduction, followed by an evening prayer conducted by the postulants and led by Br. Andrew. The celebration of light brought joy to all of us, creating a joyful and meaningful moment. Each of us carried a lamp and placed it in front of the altar as a symbol of joy and peace. There were also five other notable Diyas (lights) with different intentions; for the peace of the world, for creation, for compassion, for unity among the people, and for faith and joy.



After lighting the Diyas, we were reminded of the significance of light, especially the light of Christ, who is the light of the world. During the prayer service, we brothers and fathers together, as one family, offered intercessory prayers for peace in the nations, for the leaders of countries, and for all people around the world. The celebration began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:00 pm. We wished each other a happy Diwali and concluded with gratitude to God.

# EXPERIENCE OF PRABHODANA COMMUNITY: MYSORE

*Br. Pradeep Anthony, OFM*

Seven of us, including Brs. Kasu Eliyas Reddy, Anthony Joseph Archer, Nelson Toppo, Ankit Kumar Baghel, Niraj Kumar Tirkey, Andrew Thomas, and myself, Br. Pradeep Anthony L., were ordained as deacons on June 29, 2025. The Prabodhana community thoroughly prepared us for the liturgical celebration, and we were honored to be vested during the ceremony of vesting within the Mass. This special moment was presided over by our esteemed Friars: Provincial Br. Xavier Durairaj, Custos Br. Santhosh Ekka. We also thank our Formator and other friars who were present to share in our diaconate ordination celebration.

Each part of the liturgy carried profound meaning and significance. We received a vital charge: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." Altogether, 23 candidates were ordained as deacons by



the Apostolic Administrator of Mysore, Most Rev. Bernard Moras. Among them, 14 were Pallottines, 2 were TORs, and seven were OFMs. Following ordination, each of us was assigned to weekend ministries across various parishes.

Reflecting on my four-month stay at Prabodhana, I found the campus and its sports facilities exemplary. Our community picnic at GRS was a memorable experience. However, I perceived a noticeable unity between fathers and brothers in our communal living. I cherished nurturing our Franciscan spirituality while immersed in the Pallottine community. The principle that "we are all brothers" resonated deeply with me—whether ordained as deacons or priests, we serve the universal Church and its people. The Pallottine brothers exemplified dedication and diligence, managing many responsibilities such as liturgy, sports, and important events. After this enriching experience, we all proceeded to our own places of diaconate ministry.



# ACROSS THE GLOBE

Brs. Rohit Noel & Anthony Philip

We, the community members of Assisivanam, Kerala, were honored to welcome and host our brothers from the Province of Malta: Br. Anthony Chircop, Minister Provincial, and Br. Ramon Ferugia, Provincial Definitor and Bursar, on the 7th and 8th of September 2025. During their visit, they engaged with our brothers in basic formation, shared fraternal moments and insights, and listened to their vocation stories.

In their reflections, they encouraged the brothers to concentrate on missions, cultivate a passion for them in the near future, and pray so that the work of the kingdom may continue in various parts of the world, with special reference to their own region in Malta.



The brothers, in turn, acknowledged this encouragement and committed to prioritizing prayer support, mindful of their stage of formation. They also assured to dedicate themselves to mission-focused work wherever the order may send them. This was not merely a verbal exchange; the brothers of Assisivanam also presented a vibrant cultural program that showcased the diverse cultures of India through their talents. They made the culinary aspect of the visit particularly memorable. The visitors remarked, "We had better food here in Assisivanam than in Malta, and all credit goes to the brothers who lovingly prepared it." We extend our sincere gratitude to Br. Anthony and Br. Ramon for their visit and for the warm, fraternal bond they established with us.

*"They encouraged the brothers to concentrate on missions, cultivate a passion for them in the near future."*



# It is in dying that we are born to eternal life

Br. Jisual Hapan, Postulant

The feast of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis brought us a very special joy and happiness. We, the brothers of Postulancy, began our preparation for the celebration with nine days of novena prayers based on different themes. This helped us to prepare ourselves spiritually. Along with the novena, we were also busy decorating our house, and all the brothers kept themselves occupied with both spiritual and physical preparations. We also practiced singing and rehearsed a skit for the Transitus service. We were eagerly waiting for the Transitus service. On the day of the Transitus, it rained heavily just as we were about to begin our programme. After some time, the rain stopped, and everything went on smoothly. Many guests came for the service. Soon after the Transitus, our Guardian thanked God and all the guests for sharing their joy with the friars. Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious supper together.



On the feast day of our Holy Father Francis, we celebrated Mass in the morning, during which Fr. Alphonse Velangani gave an inspiring homily. Later, we had a friendly cricket match among ourselves, which we enjoyed very much. During this festive season, I realized how the brothers and friars helped one another and made this day truly meaningful.





**“It was a refreshing and enriching experience for all of us, a perfect mix of prayer, sightseeing, relaxation, and warm community bonding.”**

# Theology Brothers’ Picnic to Bhatkal

*Br. Mallikanti Ajay, OFM*

We, the theology brothers, along with Fr. Naveen, the rector, Fr. Prem, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bhatkal, and Fr. Prashanth, formator, went on a memorable two-day picnic to Bhatkal. It was a wonderful blend of spirituality, nature, and fellowship.

As soon as we reached the Bhatkal Friary, we were warmly welcomed by Fr. Dharma and Fr. Prem. On the first day, we visited the historic St. Francis Xavier’s Cross, where Fr. Prem shared the inspiring story behind it. After a short prayer, we continued our journey to the famous Murudeshwar Temple, known for its tall statue of Lord Shiva and its beautiful coastal setting.

After visiting the temple, we went to the house of Fr. Prem’s cousin, Asses Luis, where the family welcomed us with warm hospitality and served us a delicious lunch. After lunch, we enjoyed a peaceful boating experience, which added a relaxing touch to the day. In the evening, we spent some quality time at the beach behind the Friary, enjoying the cool breeze and making joyful memories. We then returned to the Friary for the night.

The next day, we began early with a visit to the breathtaking Jog Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in India. On the way, we stopped at the home of another cousin of Fr. Prem, Margaret Lopes, who served us a hearty breakfast that gave us energy for the day. After enjoying the beauty of Jog Falls, we visited the Linganamakki Dam, a large concrete dam built on the Sarasvati River, surrounded by nature. Later, we returned once again to Fr. Prem’s cousin’s home for lunch.



On our way back to Bhatkal, we visited Anand Ashram Convent, where the sisters welcomed us with refreshments. We also visited Fr. Prem’s house, where his mother welcomed us with great joy. This two-day trip ended with a comfortable journey back to Bengaluru. It was a refreshing and enriching experience for all of us, a perfect mix of prayer, sightseeing, relaxation, and warm community bonding.





# PARTICIPATING IN THE EPISCOPAL INSTALLATION OF BISHOP FRANCIS SERRAO, SJ, BISHOP OF MYSORE



## *Br. Anthony Archer, OFM*

It was a day of profound joy and grace to take part in the episcopal installation of Bishop Francis Serrao, SJ, as the Bishop of Mysore, held on October 7, 2025. The solemn celebration brought together a large gathering of faithful, priests, religious, and bishops from across India, all united in prayer, gratitude, and hope for the new shepherd of the Diocese of Mysore.

The installation Mass, celebrated in Kannada, was presided over by Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, and graced by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli. The liturgy was a beautiful blend of solemn tradition and vibrant local expression, reflecting both the universality and the cultural richness of the Church in Karnataka.

I had the privilege of assisting as the deacon during the Mass. It was a deeply moving experience to proclaim the Gospel before the large assembly—a moment that filled me with awe and gratitude, reminding me of the deacon’s sacred mission to proclaim the Word and serve at the altar in the spirit of humility and joy.

A key moment of the celebration was the formal handing over of pastoral responsibility by Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Moras, who had been serving as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Mysore. His gesture of entrusting the diocese to Bishop Francis Serrao was

marked by reverence and fraternity, signifying a smooth and grace-filled transition in leadership.

During the ceremony, the decree and apostolic letter of Pope Leo XIV were solemnly read. In his message, the Holy Father exhorted the clergy, religious, and faithful of Mysore to cooperate wholeheartedly with their new bishop, to foster unity and communion, and to work together in deepening faith and strengthening the life of the local Church.

In his address, Archbishop Peter Machado expressed heartfelt gratitude to Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Moras for his dedicated service as Apostolic Administrator and extended a warm welcome to Bishop Francis Serrao, assuring him of the fraternal support and prayers of the Archdiocese of Bangalore and the entire ecclesial community.

The celebration, filled with sacred music, heartfelt prayers, and joyful participation, radiated a sense of renewal and hope for the Church in Mysore. To participate in this historic and grace-filled occasion was both a personal honour and a spiritual blessing. The installation of Bishop Francis Serrao, SJ, as Bishop of Mysore stands as a powerful sign of God’s providence, calling all the faithful to journey together in unity, faith, and loving service to the Gospel.



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH RAMNAGAR



*Br. Elias Reddy, OFM*

The preparations for the Golden Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ramnagar, commenced with a three -days of retreat and a flag hoisting ceremony led by Rev. Fr. Benny SVD on Sunday, 28th September at 6:00 PM. There was also the six-days novena in preparation for the Golden Jubilee celebration of the of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ramnagar, joyfully celebrated a day of faith and thanksgiving on October 5<sup>th</sup>, marking the Golden Jubilee of the Franciscan Mission in Hyderabad. The celebration beautifully coincided with the parish feast of St. Francis of Assisi, reflecting fifty years of pastoral service, fraternity,

and compassionate outreach carried out by the Franciscan Friars.

The day's joy was enriched by cultural performances from the parish youth and children, showcasing the Franciscan spirit of simplicity, joy, and praise. The celebration concluded with different games, auction, horse ride and camel ride, followed by a fellowship meal, strengthening bonds of communion among the faithful. Even the Local MLA of Ramnagar Region greeted the faithful. The youth of the parish played a major role in illuminating the church and creating the beautiful decorations inside, as well as adorning the procession cart of St. Francis of Assisi.

Parish Priest Fr. Praveen D'Souza OFM expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Franciscan community for their fifty years of dedicated service in nurturing faith, promoting peace, and building a vibrant Christian community in Ramnagar and beyond. The celebration of the Golden Jubilee concluded with an evening procession of the statue of St. Francis at 6pm covering the area of Ramnagar chaurastha and Parsigutta. People participated in it prayerfully and faithfully.

The solemn Eucharistic celebration began at 9:00 am and it was presided over by His lordship Bishop Prakash Sagili of Khammam Diocese who delivered a wonderful homily as well. Around seventeen Friars from various Franciscan communities were present to celebrate the occasion. The celebration began with a prayer dance from Hindi Community of St. Francis of Assisi, symbolizing peace and unity. A large crowd of parishioners joined in prayer and devotion. Soon after the Mass the Bishop and each friar was felicitated.

**“ALL GLORY TO GOD FOR THE PAST,  
ALL THANKS TO THE PRESENT AND  
TRUST IN HIM FOR THE FUTURE.”**



# MONICA'S FEAST

## A CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND MOTHERHOOD

*Br. Dhilip Kumar, OFM*

The North Indian community gathered with great joy and devotion to celebrate one of their most cherished traditional feasts, the Feast of St. Monica, lovingly embraced as Mother's Day in St. Anthony's Friary Church Madiwala, Bangalore.

At the heart of the celebration was the Holy Eucharist, solemnly presided over by Fr. Lawrence as the main celebrant, joined by Fr. Deendayal OFM and other priests. The liturgy began with a beautiful traditional entrance dance, symbolizing the community's devotion and cultural identity. Music played a central role in lifting hearts in prayer and praise. The hymns, accompanied by both traditional and modern instruments such as the mandar, guitar, and keyboard, created an atmosphere of harmony and devotion. The Liturgy of the Word was made even more meaningful through a Bible procession, where the faithful carried the Holy Scriptures with reverence, accompanied once again by traditional dance.

In his homily, Fr. Lawrence reflected on the life and example of St. Monica, highlighting her unwavering perseverance in prayer and her motherly endurance in the



face of suffering for the salvation of her son, St. Augustine. After the Eucharistic celebration, Parish Priest, Fr. Prasanth, along with the other priests, led a special moment of honour for mothers through the cutting of the cake. The celebration continued with vibrant cultural programs organized by the people. Traditional dances were performed with enthusiasm, blending artistic expression and spiritual joy. The participation of all age groups reflected the unity and cultural richness.

The feast of St. Monica became more than just an annual tradition; it stood as a living testimony of faith and love. It was a celebration of prayer's transforming power and the sacred vocation of motherhood. Just as St. Monica's persevering love brought about the conversion of her son, St. Augustine, so too this annual gathering stands as a sign of hope: that the prayers of mothers, united with the Cross of Christ, continue to strengthen families and communities in faith.

# The feast of St. Louis the king

*Br. Arjit Lakra, Novice*

The entire Bible is bound by one thread which is 'love'. Love teaches the incredible virtue of caring for one another. In the Catholic Church, many are known for their love and service towards poor people, especially the saints. And among them, St. Louis the king is well reputed for his love and service. Although he was a king, he was very kind hearted to everyone. Every day he had fourteen special guests from the streets to have lunch with him.

I had the privilege of celebrating his feast for the second time in Palamaner. The feast of St. Louis IX was celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> August in the parish and the following day in the friary. The parishioners were extremely glad to celebrate their patron saint's feast. Every Year they come up with some kind of interesting events, in order to make the feast meaningful. This year they had a devotional procession. By seeing their activeness and faith I was really happy because they were not only praying but showing altruism towards other people as well. Indeed, it

was an illuminating experience for me and for our brothers. The following day on 25<sup>th</sup> August we, the brothers of St. Louis friary celebrated the feast. The preparation had begun in anticipation. All the brothers co-operated and performed their responsibilities diligently. A fraternal atmosphere presided during preparation. The feast began with a thanksgiving Mass, and then we had games followed by crunchy snacks and tea. In the games field, all the brothers put their complete effort to unite and strengthen their teams. The games were not played just to win but brothers supported each other when their teams were shaken and discouraged. Happiness overflowed in the evening during the cultural program. Brothers came out with their hidden talents and flexible bodies. It was really an amazing performance given by the brothers here.

I felt that our brothers are gifted with different talents and skills which could be beneficial for their future ministries.

# FRANCISCAN JOY ALIVE: FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND FRAYME 2025

*Br. Allwin Karra, OFM*

The feast of our Seraphic Father St. Francis of Assisi was celebrated at St. Anthony's Friary, Bengaluru, with days filled with prayer, reflection, fraternity, and vibrant joy. The entire celebration beautifully unfolded as a spiritual journey through the novena with the themes beginning from conversion to compassion for the crucified, mirroring the life of Francis lived under the gentle hand of God. These daily reflections, led by the friar students and deepened by the preaching of friar priests, invited everyone to rediscover the Gospel path of humility, peace, and love. The novena was not just a ritual preparation, but a heartfelt call to personal renewal and deeper union with Christ.



On the eve of October 3rd, the community gathered along with Franciscan brothers and sisters, priests, religious, and laity, for the Transitus Service, commemorating the holy passing of St. Francis into eternal life, the moment he affectionately called his meeting with "Sister Death." The celebration was further enriched by the Franciscan youth from parishes across India, who had come together for the Franciscan Youth Meet (FRAYME). The Transitus Service invited us to reflect on the significance of St. Francis in our lives, as we meditated on the most cherished final moments of his earthly journey. The whole life of Francis bore witness to a profound attitude of gratitude to God. The service concluded with a fraternal meal, a simple yet profound gesture that echoed the joy, humility, and communion that marked the life of the Poverello of Assisi.



The Feast Day on October 4th dawned as a radiant expression of faith and joy. The community gathered together for the feast day mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Jesudoss Rajamanickam, the Director of St. John's Hospital, Bangalore. The celebrations continued on Sunday, October 5th, as a large gathering of parishioners filled St. Anthony's Friary Church for the Mass. A special highlight of the day was the blessing of vehicles and pets, a cherished Franciscan tradition that reminded everyone of St. Francis' deep love for creation and his ability to see in every creature a reflection of the Creator's beauty. The brothers, with joyful dedication, assisted in the blessings and the collection for formation.

The celebrations reached new heights of youthful energy and Franciscan spirit through the Franciscan Youth Meet (FRAYME) held from October 3rd to 5th, with the vibrant theme: "Renew Hope: Restore Creation." The campus overflowed with enthusiasm as Franciscan youth from across India came together to celebrate faith, friendship, and fraternity. The days were marked by meaningful faith formation sessions, lively cultural performances, and joyful interactions. The FRAYME culminated with the Eucharistic celebration on October 5th, presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Susainathan, the auxiliary bishop of Bangalore, whose inspiring presence added special grace to the event.

The feast once again reminded everyone that to be a Franciscan is to live the Gospel with joy, simplicity, and compassion for all creation. The FRAYME, organized during the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, added vibrant colors of joy and energy to the feast celebrations at St. Anthony's Friary, Bangalore. Undoubtedly, the life of St. Francis continues to inspire every generation: a call to live joyfully, to love deeply, and to proclaim through every moment that "Franciscan Joy is Alive!"



## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH, RAMNAGAR: A TESTAMENT OF FRANCISCAN SPIRIT

*Br. Eliyas Reddy, OFM*

The Franciscan chapter in the history of Ramnagar Parish began in January 1974, when Fr. Christopher Coelho, OFM, arrived with the permission of Archbishop Samineni Arulappa to establish a Franciscan community. Soon after, on 14th April 1975, Fr. Sylvester Dias, OFM, became the first Guardian and Parish Priest, joined by Fr. Augustine P.A., OFM, and Fr. Joy Prakash, OFM. The first friars lived humbly in the basement of the school run by the Catechist Sisters of St. Ann, celebrating Mass in a small shed. Under Fr. Sylvester's leadership, the old convent was converted into a friary, an additional floor was added in 1977, and the construction of a new church began.

On 20th December 1978, this church was blessed and dedicated as St. Francis of Assisi Church. The succeeding pastors steadily built up the parish community. Fr. Augustine P.A., OFM (1978-1980), began celebrating Mass in Vidyanagar, while Fr. Lawrence Kochumalakunnel, OFM (1980-1984), relocated a typing institute to serve the poor and initiated Mass at Chikkadpally. In 1985, Fr. Bala Sunder, OFM, took charge of the now well-established parish, followed by Fr. Arok Sunder, OFM, whose dedication throughout the 1990s ensured stability and growth. In 1994, a new building was added to house the Franciscan Juniorate students.

Later, Fr. Salibindla Prathap Reddy, OFM (1998), and Fr. Prasad Cheely, OFM, continued this mission until his untimely passing in April 2000. Leadership then passed to Fr. Varghese Sebastian, OFM, in 2000, who guided the community with care. A time of renewal dawned with Fr. K. Sleeva, OFM, whose personal and pastoral approach revitalized parish life. Attendance increased, and a major extension and renovation of the church were undertaken. The beautifully renewed St. Francis of Assisi Church was blessed by Archbishop Marampudi Joji on 27th May 2007, marking a new era of vibrancy for the Franciscan presence in Ramnagar.

Fr. Arok Sunder once again returned to the parish for another three years. Fr. Prasad Papaputhini served for a year and went to Germany from here. Fr. Prasanna then

served the parish for the next five years, and Fr. Praveen took up the charge of the parish in 2023. Today, the parish continues to flourish. There is a strong system of faith formation, supported by committed parents who encourage their children to attend catechism. Every year, the parish joyfully celebrates First Communion and Confirmation. The successive priests have given priority to spiritual activities and have made parish feasts meaningful and vibrant occasions of community celebration. A dynamic youth group adds energy and vitality, engaging actively in many areas of parish life.

Recent years have seen remarkable milestones. In 2022, a new flagpole was erected. In 2023-24, a statue of St. Francis with the wolf and the inscription "I LOVE ST. FRANCIS" were installed, along with significant renovations inside the church, enhancing the beauty of the parish. The parish has also hosted major youth gatherings: in 2023, it welcomed over 400 young people for FRAYME (Franciscan Youth Meet) and in 2025, it hosted the Archdiocesan Youth Meet, again bringing together more than 400 youth in joyful celebration. Through the decades, Ramnagar Parish has grown from humble beginnings into a faith-filled, vibrant, and welcoming community. Strong in formation, rooted in Franciscan spirituality, enriched by the dedication of its pastors, and energized by its youth, the parish continues to be a living witness to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



# KARAM FESTIVAL

## A CELEBRATION OF FAITH, CULTURE, AND CREATION

*Br. Dhilip Kumar, OFM*

The Hindi-speaking community of St. Anthony's Friary Church celebrated the Karam festival with profound faith, vibrant culture, and a spirit of thanksgiving. Rooted in agricultural traditions, the Karam festival honours the Creator through the fruits of the earth and human labour, expressing gratitude for nature's abundance and the rhythms of sowing and reaping that sustain life.

The celebration commenced with a solemn yet joyful Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Franklin, Fr. Sameer Minj, Fr. Anup Minj and Fr. Rakesh Toppo. The liturgy beautifully integrated faith and culture, reminding everyone that God's presence is revealed not only in the church but also in the fields, rivers, forests, and daily work of human life.

The entrance procession was filled with colour and devotion as dancers in traditional attire gracefully led the assembly in a rhythmic dance of thanksgiving. During the homily, Fr. Sameer Minj S.J. offered a moving reflection on the threefold relationship shared among God, nature, and humanity. He emphasized that creation is a reflection of God's generosity, and human beings are called to be faithful stewards of the environment.

After the Eucharist, the community expressed gratitude to the priests through a traditional felicitation ceremony, followed by a joyful cultural program filled with song, dance, and celebration. Folk and tribal performances showcased the creativity and faith of the Hindi-speaking community, blending devotion with ancestral heritage. The festival concluded with a traditional procession through the church premises – a symbol of solidarity, gratitude, and shared blessing. Carrying lamps and banners, the faithful gave praise to the Creator for His providence through nature, rain, sunlight, and human labour.

The Karam Feast at St. Anthony's Friary was more than a cultural observance; it was a living testimony of faith in action. It united generations in prayer and celebration, renewing the sacred bond between humanity and creation. In honouring nature, the community acknowledged God's bounty and reaffirmed its responsibility to care for His creation. As the celebration ended in joy and harmony, one could truly feel that the rhythm of faith, culture, and creation had found perfect harmony in this blessed festival of life.



# SINGING TO ETERNAL GLORY

## A CANTICLE OF CREATURES AND TRANSITUS CELEBRATION AT CAPUCHIN ASHRAM NASHIK

*Br. Antoni Wanniang, OFM*

'Words are the external expression of the internal language that speaks' says Noam Chomsky. A hermeneutical understanding of words or language; yet, something even more is found in St. Francis of Assisi for him 'it is the heart that speaks; the heart first, then words; a heart that is filled with the overwhelming and loving word of God. Therefore, out from this heart comes his most beautiful praise to God the Canticle of Creatures; A canticle that recognizes and embraces each creature of God as family members. He Calls each one of them as brothers and sisters (brother sun, sister moon, and so on). He was not content with merely saying but he sang out aloud thanking God for such a precious gift that he can't stop singing even as he left the world embracing sister death. I found myself deeply moved by this insight after celebrating the 8th centenary of the Canticle of the Creatures and the Transitus of our father St. Francis of Assisi.'



Inspired by the love for him and moved by his angelic hymn of praises to God (the canticle of creatures) the Capuchin Ashram Community celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis on the eve of 4<sup>th</sup> of October in a very grand manner. A prayer service was held in front of the chapel together with a large congregation of people. Everyone was touched by the enactment of the Transitus. It was even more special because the canticle of creatures was enacted and sang during the prayer service. The people were deeply moved by the celebration. Some who witnessed this event for the first time marveled and joyously participated in each moment; singing the Franciscan hymns, partaking in the sharing and eating of the bread and kissing of the stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi. This was a moment of joy and gladness not only for the brothers in the community but also for those who come to witness this event and every creatures of God.

St. Francis sang from his heart for every creature in the world, though his voice diminishes as he embraces sister death, yet it continues to resound in the world through his family members: the moon, the stars, the birds and fish who fondly and affectionately sing for him. Let us join in singing with our father and our brothers and sister creatures that the almighty God may bless and protect each and every one of us especially our mother Earth.



**“Words are the external expression of the internal language that speaks.”**



## 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANTICLE OF CREATURES: A DAY OF HOPE AND FRANCISCAN UNITY IN BANGALORE

*Br. Pratap Xess, OFM*

On Sunday, September 21st, in honor of the 800th Anniversary of the Canticale of Creatures, all the Franciscan religious brothers and sisters in Bangalore gathered at Alverna Bhavan, Bangalore under the theme "Praise be to you, My Lord." Out of 23 communities located in Bangalore, approximately 19 communities registered. We, the brothers from theology along with Fr. Naveen and Fr. Prasana also represented the Franciscan presence in Bangalore.

The event began with the inauguration, including the lighting of the lamp by spokesperson Fr. Gerrald Lobo, Salvador Fernandes, director of Shanti Sadhana, and Sr. Lusi. This was followed by the recitation of the Canticale of the Creatures prayer. Fr. Salvador Fernandes, OFM Cap, director of Shanti Sadhana, FISl, delivered the welcome address, inviting all present to journey with St. Francis of Assisi in understanding the Canticale of Creatures. Fr. Prasana, OFM, introduced the day's spokesperson Fr. Gerrald Lobo OFM (Gerry).

Fr. Gerry delivered a talk on 'Canticale of Creatures: Song of the Pilgrim and Disciples of Hope,' beginning with the idea that God's "last name" is the world, a concept embraced by philosophers and theologians. Despite the many sufferings and brokenness in the world, it remains a source of hope for those in despair. He explained how St. Francis of Assisi, as both a disciple and a pilgrim, was inspired to compose the Canticale after his encounter with a leper. He concluded the talk by urging everyone to become living examples of hope—not dependent solely on material possessions but sustained through compassion and care amid sorrow and pain. He emphasized that hope, rooted in God, enables us to become sources of hope for humanity, recognizing creatures not merely as resources to use but as reflections of the face of God.

After the discourse, we extended best wishes to the jubilant sisters and proceeded to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Fr. Salvador Fernandes, OFM Cap. After the lunch break, the day continued with a cultural program, including a hilarious dance performed by the OFM brothers of theology. The day concluded with tea and snacks. It was a joyous and grace-filled occasion for Franciscan brothers and sisters to come together and celebrate their journey as pilgrims of hope and stewards of all creation.



# A Note of Gratitude



## *Br. Leomax, OFM*

On the occasion of our solemn profession I, Brother Leomax TS and Brother Joseph Lakra lift up to Almighty God our most sincere gratitude and praise. He, who is the source of life and every blessing: through His love and mercy, called us to respond to His invitation which is rooted in evangelical poverty, service, and prayer. Our profession is, ultimately, an act of trust in divine faithfulness—a daily consecration to live the Gospel with simplicity and courage.

We cannot forget those who, with dedication and generosity, have made this journey of formation possible. We thank our provincial, the custos, the president and their respective teams, our rectors from the time we entered as aspirants and throughout our basic formation for the support and encouragements.

We also thank our companions on the journey: their presence and encouragement make the path less burdensome and more meaningful. Fraternity is not an accessory to our charism—it is its beating heart; living together through joys and difficulties strengthens our evangelical witness.

The profession that we professed is both an arrival and a new beginning. It is an arrival because it marks a moment of deeper self-offering; it is a beginning because it sets us on a path that demands daily conversion, service, and fraternal love. We can walk this path only with the help of grace, nourished by prayer and sustained by community. To all who have accompanied us and to those who will continue to support us, we recall that this vocation is a gift meant to be shared: fraternity is mission, and mission is a witness of hope for today's world, especially now in our present situations which so greatly need this hope.





## PART II: POETRY OF PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

*Br. Sujith, OFM*

The poetry of patience and perseverance becomes joy and wonder being with the fraternity on the mountain of La Verna. In spite of weather challenges, the life moves on. To say something about our fraternity, we are around thirty friars in the sanctuary. It is a kind of new experience for me with the friars gathering from different provinces. We have daily prayers and food in common and the formation of novices is intense and cloistered. During the winter times, the movement of the pilgrims come down in the sanctuary and the guesthouse is closed for few months because of severe cold. During this time, one of the best movements of our fraternity here is we get chance to cook varieties of food and cuisines from different nationalities. The brothers get more time listen to each other's vocation stories and their Franciscan journey in the Order and their experiences. Besides, friar priests go for preaching recollections, home holidays, making fraternal pilgrimages, visiting other friaries and helping them out for various needs, manual work and many more .

We have a huge friary which contains eighty rooms and also a guest house for the pilgrims providing food and accommodation. During the winter the pilgrims are less therefore the guest house is kept closed for few months. It is also one of the challenges to maintain the sanctuary on this mountain because of cold and harsh weather conditions. However, the friars are active and energetic to run the guesthouse for the pilgrims and make them feel at home with Franciscan touch. Coming to the Sanctuary of the Stigmata, it has a very important role in this place particularly for us Franciscans around the world. Many people come to attend the procession of the stigmata and receive blessings. During spring and summer many pilgrims visit the sanctuary and it is a wonderful time to see many people from different parts of Italy and the world.

What is the mission of the friars on mount La Verna? The life of the friars in the sanctuary revolves around prayer, fraternity and work. The liturgical activities and praying with the people as one community and particularly the traditional Stigmata prayers and processions which began at the end of fourteenth century. We also have a hermitage here and is always open for those friars and for other religious who want to go into silence and solitude to strengthen their spiritual energy. As novices are engaged in formation and the time of discernment, the friars continue to work here by saying Masses and hearing confessions and spiritual needs of pilgrims and guiding them in the sanctuary. On the other hand, some friars also animate the guesthouse for pilgrims throughout the year especially in summer. There are friars who organise retreats for youngsters, children and adults who besides trekking and Franciscan march programmes too.



### The Easter or Pasqua celebration in La Verna -

The celebration of Easter on mount La Verna is simple but elegant. It was still cold during the time of Lent and the Holy Week. The preparations were so good and the masses were celebrated for the pilgrims and the fraternity during the lent. It was something new for me to experience namely, celebration imitating an ancient tradition in Jerusalem, the celebration of the deposition of Christ's body on Good Friday. To see this event, many people were gathered in the sanctuary during triduum. The Easter celebration had begun at 11 in the night with the blessing of fire and water and followed by the solemn singing of Exultet. There were around three hundred people were present for the solemn mass. After the Mass there was a small gathering for the fraternity and cutting of Colombo a traditional cake prepared for Easter in Italy. And the following day on Sunday of the Pasqua, we had several masses for the pilgrims which were celebrated by the friars.

The life on mount La Verna is always a great mystical and spiritual experience in life where one can store the treasures of true brotherhood and the life of prayer more intensely. The nature around the mountain helps us always to be connected with the Most High Almighty God.



## Hattrick of FATHER FRANCIS Sparks the Friar's Pastoral Ministry

(Homily preached on the day of Transitus, Ramnagar, Hyderabad)

*Br. Arok Sundar, OFM*

The cricket game is played seasonally in commonwealth countries. Men and women are fascinated by the game and they don't mind to travel to be spectators. They swarm bees to get tickets to relax in watching the game and express the game spirit.

Rarely a player makes hattrick and the crowd cheers and enjoys over the record break. Mr. Kohli or M.S Dhoni made the crowds cheerful and joyful with their performances but these lasts only for a while till the other person over takes and breaks the record.

There was a little man of Assisi dreamed big, and spectacular and wanted to Redtek them by all means.

In his search and struggle he was not the same after kissing the leper. He, once fun loving became silent taking garment of solitude as his mantle to make his dreams a reality.

\*\*Therefore, he desired to hold the Saviour of the world in his arms, he created the first crib and held the Babe of

Bethlehem closer to his heart. Thus, he presented God, to the world in flesh and spirit? He showed the humanity that the incarnation was possible and real. Thus made the record created 800 years ago.

\*\* The love and intimacy with the incarnated son was very deep that father Francis not only wanted to keep the babe of Bethlehem to his heart, but also bear the suffering and the wounds of the creator on himself. From then on, he took the wounds of Christ the redeemer as his garb to cover his sinful nakedness, laying the garb of solitude. He became one with the saviour.

On Mt. Alverna he spent his time in union with Christ to weave the garb of the Lord's wounds. And on the 17th of September father Francis was vested, imprinting the wounds on his body. He who wanted to hold the babe, got transformed into another Christ. This was another new record created.

\*\* Having vested in Christ and in oneness with him the little man of Assisi created a new world for him.

Began seeing God's creation with the eyes of love and compassion. All the creatures of God became his brothers and sisters. And this insight made him cry like mother Mary, who cried out, my souls magnifies the Lord, All creatures of God...

Third record created a hatrnick. A man of littleness dreamed big thing and showed the creator dwelling amidst us. A true hatrnick for the humanity.

He made his dreams real through 3 movements of his Spiritual life. They are:

- From loneliness to solitude
- From hostility to Hospitality and
- From illusion to prayer. And thus, people felt the presence of EMMANUEL.
- Dear brothers and sisters,

I am not going speak the achievements of our father Francis. I will share few episodes that the friars pastorally ministered over the last 50 years.

When we were invited by the late Archbishop Arulappa S, he offered Mudfort and Ramnagar and told to choose.

Now Mudfort parish is surrounded garrisons (army) and well-placed people. Whereas Ramnagar, a place, occupied by lower middle-class families and a portion of it called Paarsigutta, where lot of pastoral ministries needed. The friars opted

Ramnagar and presented Christ in flesh and spirit by their care and life.

When the first friars set the foot in this area there was no place to lay baggage and themselves. They adjusted with the little place, PORTUNCULA, you may think, the nuns gave them to reside. The food wasn't to their liking but the caring nun, Sr. Virginia with her motherly care sustained their dream. May her soul rest in peace.

Settled in a simple abode the friars Studied and started ministering the people.

The financial status of the people was bad and so they started debt redeeming project and saved many families from humiliation.

Not to boast on edifying activities, the friars also fell into enmity and antagonistic situations, when they went for parish children education and their school fee, was the second service they did. School fee was subsidised. The Sunday catechism was a success in those days. People enjoyed the friar's presence. They began the presence in a small way and slowly introduced the liturgy in vernacular and slowly the people involvement became vibrant and the community grew strong.

The life wasn't smooth all the time. There were unhealthy and painful events also challenging the peace-loving community. The life wasn't a proclamation, but a thorn in the flesh. Efforts were taken but they were just an unending squabble.

Everyone knew the burning gate issue caused deep wounds to nuns as well as to the priests, external pain and emotionally both the parties experienced awkward and

uncomfortable feeling especially in coming to adore the Eucharistic Lord.

Not wanting to perpetuate the sickly feeling, the friar went to the Mother General and reconciled with her saying, this is cancerous, affect us as well as the faithful. I will not be in the way to cause more pain and division. He further worked for peace involving them in the ministry.

Late 90's through pastoral visits a bunch of migrant families about 32 Catholic and people of other faith were brought in to the church and enrolled the children in our schools for education and supported in their tuition fee. Today we can be proud of a girl got appointed in the department of police.

We with great opposition started St. Francis high school, with a logo, 'Education with Character.' It is giving light to the minds of the young children. Thanks to the pioneers.

People from north are assembled and given care to their stay and liturgically time is given to them the taste and perpetuate their culture and togetherness.

The friars not only brought the flesh and spirit in the lives of the people they also got wounded and broken to revamp the joy of living as Franciscans. Time to time we experienced from wounds to NEW LIFE.

The gospel of Luke 10:21 ff.." I bless you Father, Lord of heaven and earth for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children... it pleased you"

On this day we just remain silent and give glory to God who made us undergo these events in faith. The little man of Assisi dreamed big and realised... Brothers don't fear to dream to do good.



October 2025



*Br. Isaac Reyes, OFS*

The 10th session of the Franciscan Vision Global Summit (FVGS) 2025 was held online on October 25, 2025. The session was joyfully opened, as usual, by Fr. Arokiam John, OFM, who served as Master of Ceremonies. He warmly greeted the participants, saying, “May the Lord give you peace, dear Brothers and Sisters!” He then announced that the talks would, as has now become customary, be available in six languages, translated by the following members:

- Spanish: Br. Isaac Heriberto Reyes, OFS (Canada/North America)
- French: Sr. Gracy, FSM (France/Europe)
- Portuguese: Sr. Isabel Balbino, FMM (Portugal/Europe)
- Italian: Sr. Cinzia Caserio, CFMSS (Italy/Europe)
- Hindi: Sr. Ekta Ekka, FSLG (India/Asia)
- Tamil: Br. Arokiam, OFM (MC)

The session began with an invocation of the Holy Spirit, led by OFM friar-students from the Province of Madagascar and Mauritius, under the direction of Fr. Flavio, OFM.

Fr. Arokiam then introduced the moderator, Dr. Prof. Br. Uchenna Ezeihejeafor, OFM<sup>Cap</sup>, a lecturer at the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality, Pontifical Antonianum University, Rome. Br. Uchenna, in turn, introduced the main speaker, Dr. Br. Santosh Ekka, OFM, who presented a thought-provoking talk on the theme: “The Creation (Eco) Spirituality of the Canticle of the Creatures: Its Application in the Oraon Tribe of India.”

**The Talk:** Eco-Spirituality in the Canticle of the Creatures and the Oraon Tribe of India

In his presentation, Br. Santosh explored the eco-spirituality expressed in St. Francis of Assisi’s *The Canticle of the Creatures* and its resonance with the Oraon tribe of India. He defined eco-spirituality as a harmonious relationship between God, self, others, and creation—an integration of theology and ecology.

Br. Santosh highlighted that St. Francis’ spiritual journey unfolds through four relational dimensions:

- Via divina – connection with God
- Via persona – humility and self-awareness
- Via umana – fraternity and social harmony
- Via natura – kinship with nature

Through the *Canticle of the Creatures*, St. Francis celebrates creation as a cosmic family, where every

element—sun, moon, wind, water, fire, and earth—joins in divine praise as brothers and sisters.

Br. Santosh noted that the Oraon people, followers of the Sarna religion, embody a similar spirituality. Their Creator God, Dharmes, is honored through sacrifices and rituals marking life events and agricultural cycles. Their creation story emphasizes humility and communal responsibility, fostering a lifestyle rooted in simplicity, honesty, and moral integrity.

In the Oraon worldview, kinship extends beyond bloodlines to include all community members and even domestic animals, nurturing a profound sense of unity and cooperation. Nature itself is sacred—the earth is revered as mother, and their totemic clan system links identity to elements of creation such as animals, plants, and minerals. Rituals performed in sacred groves and fields reflect a theology deeply embedded in the land.



This lived eco-spirituality mirrors Franciscan values and offers a universal model for healing ecological and relational fractures. Br. Santosh concluded that, although neither St. Francis nor the Oraons were ecologists in the modern sense, their traditions embody profound ecological wisdom. Both affirm Pope Francis’ message that “everything is connected” and that restoring harmony with creation begins by restoring harmony within ourselves, our communities, and with God.

Following the talk, Br. Uchenna moderated a “Question and Answer” session, fostering rich reflections and dialogue among participants.

Fr. Arokiam John then expressed heartfelt thanks to Br. Santosh Ekka and Br. Uchenna Ezeihejeafor, before inviting everyone to the next online FVGS event, scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 17:30–18:45 (Indian time) / 13:00–14:15 (Italian time).

The 10th session of the FVGS 2025—also marking the continuation of the broader Franciscan Vision Global Summit series that began in January 2023—concluded beautifully with a hymn on the *Canticle of the Creatures*. The hymn was sung by the Pre-novices, Professed Sisters, and Formators of the Ursuline Franciscan Sisters (UFS) in India, bringing the session to a joyful and prayerful close.

# THE XXIV ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RECTORS OF MAJOR SEMINARIES (ARMS)

*Br. Johnson M. V., OFM*

The XXIV Annual General Body Meeting of the Association of Rectors of Major Seminaries (ARMS) was held at Alpha Pastoral Centre, Eda Kochi, Ernakulam, Kerala, from November 04 to 07, 2025. The meeting brought together seventy-six Rectors representing major seminaries from across India. The assembly was graced by the presence of Most Rev. Varghese Chakkalakkal, Patron of ARMS and Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious (VSCR). The central theme of the meeting was “Strategizing Laity-Participation in Priestly Formation.”

Besides Most Rev. Varghese Chakkalakkal, the meeting was honoured by the gracious presence of Bishop James Anaparambil, Bishop Ambrose Puthenvettil, Bishop Antony Valungal, Bishop-elect Antony Kattiparambil, Justice Kurian Joseph, Ms. Lida Jacob IAS, Sr. Ruby CTC, Dr. Fatima Cross, Mr. Joy Gothuruthu, Fr. Stephen Alathara, Dr. Gregory Arby, Rev. Dr. Richard Britto (President of ARMS) Rev. Dr. Charles Leon (Secretary of ARMS) and George and Nimmy, CEO and Founder of Magi Tours. Their presence and insightful interventions enriched the sessions, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration between the ecclesial, academic, and civic spheres.

The salient features of the meeting included: Eucharistic Celebrations, the Inaugural Session, Keynote Address, Facilitation Talks, Religious and Laity Sharing, Sharing of Present Best Practices, Knowing Our Formation Houses, Workshops on Strategies of Laity Involvement, General and Open Discussions, Regional Planning Meetings, Visits to Historic-Cultural Centres, Visits to Century-Old Major Seminaries, and the memorable voyage on the Arabian Sea.

Vision of Priestly Ministry as Accompaniment of the People of God: In the light of the vision of the Second Vatican Council, particularly *Lumen Gentium* (9-17), the Church is to be understood primarily as the People of God, a pilgrim community journeying together toward the Kingdom. Priestly ministry, therefore, is fundamentally a ministry of accompaniment, walking with the People of God, sharing their dreams, struggles, joys, and sufferings, and helping them discern and live out God’s Will.

The priest is called not to stand above the people but to walk beside them, guiding, motivating, and challenging them to become authentic witnesses of the Gospel. Synodality calls for participation, collaboration, and communion. Hence, priestly formation must focus not only on preparing the laity to collaborate with priests but also on preparing priests to accompany the laity. Formation must produce shepherds with the “aroma of Christ” and “the smell of the sheep”—pastors configured to Christ through humility, compassion, and service.

Role of the Laity in the Formation of Seminarians: Priests must not only know their people but also understand the world in which they live. Seminaries are often seen as i

nsulated from societal realities. Priests should be aware of contemporary culture, language, and trends to respond adequately to present-day challenges.

The formation of priests cannot remain an exclusive domain of clergy. For integral and healthy priestly formation, the involvement of the laity is indispensable. Their participation should impact the human, intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual dimensions of formation. Interaction with laypersons grounds both formators and formees in the lived faith of ordinary people. The laity, with their experience of faith and life, meaningfully contribute to the maturing of priestly vocations. The involvement of religious women and qualified laypersons adds essential, not optional, dimensions to priestly formation.

After prayerful reflection and collective discernment, the Meeting proposed the following Action Plan to be implemented in all formation houses:

1. We shall assist formators and seminarians in developing conviction to deal with laity and religious women with respect and dignity.
2. We shall take proactive steps in admitting more lay students in our philosophical and theological institutes.
3. We shall involve more lay persons and religious women with qualifications and expertise in teaching, including theological and philosophical subjects and skill training in the seminary.
4. Besides having spiritual fathers in the seminary, we shall enlist the services of experienced laity and religious women as spiritual guides and counsellors to accompany seminarians in their human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral formation.
5. We shall invite gifted lay persons and religious women to share their insights and experiences and to preach recollections and retreats.
6. We shall be conscious of our attitude, behaviour, language, and methods in formation, keeping in mind the perspectives, trends, sentiments, and aspirations of the people of our times.
7. We shall provide opportunities for greater interaction between seminarians and laity through BECs, parish associations, ecclesial movements, weekend ministries, group-living among people, and exposure programmes.
8. We shall take into account observations from involved laity and women religious in the discernment process of promoting students to the next stage of formation.
9. Since the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of formation, as His co-operators, we entrust the implementation of this plan to the guidance of the Holy Trinity. We seek the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who accompanied the first disciples of Christ, and the protection of Saint Joseph, guardian of priests. May Saint John Mary Vianney, the patron of all priests, intercede for all formators and seminarians entrusted to our care, so that we may form pastors after the heart of Christ.

# PAGE FROM THE HISTORY

## CHAPTER OF MATS – A REPORT A JOURNEY REFLECTS ON THE CHAPTER OF MATS

*Br. Babu Jose, OFM*

VOLUME XVI NOS. 10-11  
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1983

As September marched forward to October, we waited for the great day to dawn on us - October 3rd, 1983. St. Louis Friary was a like bride adorned with jewels for the arrival of the bridegrooms, the friars of our Province, who came here to face the challenge of God as a brotherhood. There was the enthusiasm of a marriage feast. The Chapter of Mats was a feast of meeting each other and becoming one in Christ as such happens in Marriage.

As each friar stopped into the friary, he was filled with joy the joy was something like that of a son who sees his beloved mother after a long time. As St. Louis Friary was a mother to them in their formative years here, so also each friar felt a special happiness in seeing one's own after many years.

Through this Chapter of Mats, we came to know more about our brothers; in other words, we came closer to each other. The Sessions gave a new twist to our lives as the brothers explained to us how they live and carry out their tasks which the Almighty has given them and as they shared their hopes and dreams. It was a gathering of brothers without the barrier of language, culture, and customs etc. It was actually a gathering of the members of a family with Christ the Prince of Peace and Love as the head. We were all moved by the liturgy that we had for the Chapter.

The prayerfulness of those liturgies made us think that we had a good retreat. When we tune our minds to that memorable feast of the province the first things that come to our minds are the hymns and the homilies.

The Chapter was a land mark in the history of our Province. Nothing can wipe away the happiest memories of those days from our minds except

another Chapter far richer than the one we had. And of course we do long for such Chapters in the future. Recalling those wonderful days we can't help thanking God and all those who played a responsible role in it, namely, our Visitor General, Fr Gerard Salomink; Fr. Provincial, the Councillors and the organizers. Last but not least, all the friars who came here, especially Rt. Rev. Bishop Ambrose and the brothers of the Franciscan family. Our sincere thanks to each and everyone. For us it is very clear that this Chapter worked as mortar in strengthening building. As mortar holds all bricks together and makes a strong building, so the Chapter of Mats brought all the members of the family together and strengthened the Brotherhood to face the challenges of God in India.

"Augustino said that we are CAPAX DEI: capable of God, capacious for, spacious for, a dwelling place for God, for the Lord, for the Word. And he dwelt among us."







WRITE

TO

EXCHANGE

AND

BUILD

THE

BROTHERHOOD

NEXT ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED  
IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY